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Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended): An action group arbitration system, comprising:

a searchable memory ~~search~~ block having a first type memory portion and a second type memory portion, wherein the searchable memory ~~search~~ block is configured with a plurality of entries, the plurality of entries configured to provide a search result in response to a search key;

a first table having a plurality of stored values, wherein each of the plurality of stored values corresponds with one of the plurality of entries, ~~and~~ the first table configured to receive the search result and to provide a selection signal in response to the search result, the selection signal corresponding with at least one of the plurality of entries, wherein each of the plurality of entries includes ~~having~~ a first state and an associated stored value having an enable state; and

a second table configured to receive the selection signal and to provide an action indication in response to the selection signal.

2. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 1, wherein:

the first type memory portion includes static random access memory (SRAM).

3. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 1, wherein:

the second type memory portion includes ternary content addressable memory (TCAM).

4. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second type memory portions include a plurality of entries.

5. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 4, wherein:

for each of the plurality of entries, an entry in the first table includes a plurality of the stored values.

6. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 5, wherein:

each of the stored values corresponds to an action group.

7. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 1, wherein:

the first state includes a hit or match indication.

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8. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 1, wherein:

the second table includes an action table having a plurality of portions.

9. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 8, wherein:

each of the plurality of portions is configured to be accessed by a corresponding one of a plurality of the selection signals.

10. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 9, wherein:

each of the plurality of portions corresponds to an action group.

11. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 10, wherein:

the action group includes a user programmable register for enabling one or more categories of actions.

12. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 1, wherein:

the selection signal is generated in response to a precedence determination.

13. (original): The action group arbitration system of claim 1, wherein:

the action indication includes an action to be performed on a packet.

14. (currently amended): A method of arbitrating actions, comprising the steps of:

performing a search operation on a searchable memory block;

accessing a stored action group number in a first table, the stored action group number corresponding to each hit resulting from the search operation, the stored action group number including a group subfield and a precedence number;

checking if the group subfields in the stored action group number are is enabled for any hits from the search operation;

allowing the hit for a group if the group subfield is enabled;

suppressing the hit for the group if the group subfield is not enabled;

determining a precedence based on the precedence number to provide a search result for the group; and

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selecting an action <u>based on the search result</u> from an action table portion corresponding to the group.

15. (currently amended): The method of arbitrating actions of claim 14, wherein:

the performing the search operation includes searching a <u>memory</u> block having a first type memory portion and a second type memory portion.

16. (original): The method of arbitrating actions of claim 15, wherein:

the first type memory portion includes static random access memory (SRAM).

17. (original): The method of arbitrating actions of claim 15, wherein:

the second type memory portion includes ternary content addressable memory (TCAM).

18. (original): The method of arbitrating actions of claim 14, wherein:

the accessing the stored action group number includes selecting an entry from an action group number table.

19. (original): The method of arbitrating actions of claim 14, wherein:

the determining the precedence includes selecting a highest priority hit from among a remaining group of hits.

20. (original): The method of arbitrating actions of claim 14, wherein:

the action table includes a portion corresponding to each of the groups.

21. (original): The method of arbitrating actions of claim 20, wherein:

the selecting the action from the action table includes accessing the portion corresponding to the group.

22. (currently amended): A ~~means~~ <u>computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium</u> for arbitrating actions, comprising:

a means for performing a search operation <u>on a searchable memory block</u>;

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a means for accessing a stored action group number in a first table, the stored action group number corresponding to each hit resulting from the search operation, the stored action group number including a group subfield and a precedence number;

a means for checking if the group subfields in the stored action group number are is enabled for any hits from the search operation;

a means for allowing the hit for a group if the group subfield is enabled;

a means for suppressing the hit for the group if the group subfield is not enabled;

a means for determining a precedence based on the precedence number to provide a search result for the group; and

a means for selecting an action based on the search result from an action table portion corresponding to the group.